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As a scientist, I believe in open and fair debate on topics that affect public resources. From what I understand, these proposed amendments would curtail public input and give the Executive Director too much authority. Any major project with the capacity to affect public resources must be open to review and scrutiny. That would not seem to be the case under the proposed amendment.

Behind-the-scenes reviews, deals and decisions must be eliminated, not fostered. I am concerned that the amendments would not be helpful. We must provide for government accountability to garner the public's trust. One way is to retain the FOIA process rather than to create a new process that leaves too many decisions in the hands of the Director.

The public must be kept in the loop about all decisions.